

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 18, 2006. Claims 1, 4 to 7, 9 to 12 and 14 to 16 are pending in the application, with Claims 2, 3 and 8 having been cancelled and Claim 16 having been newly added. Claims 1 and 12, both of which are independent, have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 to 12, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0032839 (Yamamoto) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0037174 (Uchida). Claims 2, 3 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter and without conceding the correctness of their rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the remaining claims are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns a storage unit which is detachable from an information processing apparatus having ejecting means for ejecting the storage unit, the storage unit having a storage medium for storing data from the information processing apparatus. Storage of data into the storage medium is controlled. An eject instruction to eject the storage unit from the information processing apparatus is received by the storage unit. A judgment is made by the storage unit as to whether or not a recording operation in the storage unit is complete. An eject permission signal is output from the storage unit to the information processing apparatus for ejecting the storage unit by the ejecting means if it is judged that the recording operation in the storage unit is complete.

Thus, among its many features, the present invention provides for (i) judging, by a storage unit, whether or not a recording operation in the storage unit is complete, and (ii) outputting, from the storage unit to an information processing apparatus, an eject permission signal for ejecting the storage unit by ejecting means if it is judged that the recording operation in the storage unit is complete.

By virtue of the foregoing, since the storage unit judges whether a recording operation is complete and outputs an eject permission signal, an information processing apparatus attached to the storage unit does not necessarily have to check for the completion of the recording operation. If the information processing apparatus did have to perform such a check, it is believed additional logic/circuitry would be required. Thus, complexity in the present invention is seen to be reduced, especially in a case where plural types of storage units are attached to the information processing apparatus.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claims 1 and 12 are respectively directed to a storage unit and a method.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the invention of the subject application. In particular, Yamamoto and Uchida are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of (i) judging, by a storage unit, whether or not a recording operation in the storage unit is complete, and (ii) outputting, from the storage unit to an information processing apparatus, an eject permission signal for ejecting the storage unit by ejecting means if it is judged that the recording operation in the storage unit is complete.

As understood by Applicants, Yamamoto discloses a browser apparatus.

See Yamamoto, Abstract. In a case where a user operates an eject button, the ejection of a

storage medium is not immediately conducted but a routine for performing a write processing required on the system side is started so that after the write processing is completed, a signal indicating the instruction for or permission of ejection of the storage medium is given from the system side to the memory device. See Yamamoto, paragraph 11.

As such, Yamamoto is seen to disclose that a signal indicating an instruction for or permission of ejection of a storage medium is given from the system side. This is different than the present invention, in which a judgment as to whether a recording operation is complete is made by the storage unit itself.

Accordingly, Yamamoto is not seen to disclose or suggest (i) judging, by a storage unit, whether or not a recording operation in the storage unit is complete, and (ii) outputting, from the storage unit to an information processing apparatus, an eject permission signal for ejecting the storage unit by ejecting means if it is judged that the recording operation in the storage unit is complete.

Uchida has been reviewed and is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Yamamoto. In particular, Uchida is seen to disclose a disk drive device in which a disk ejection mechanism comprises authentication control means that outputs a disk ejection instruction to a mechanism control, if a disk ejection instruction and authentication information are input. See Uchida, Figures 1 and 6; and paragraphs 8 and 11.

However, Uchida is not seen to disclose or suggest that it is a storage unit which judges whether or not a recording operation in the storage unit is complete. Moreover, Uchida is not seen to disclose or suggest outputting, from the storage unit to an

information processing apparatus, an eject permission signal for ejecting the storage unit by ejecting means if it is judged that the recording operation in the storage unit is complete.

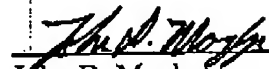
Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1 and 12 as amended are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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CA_MAIN 129244v1

In re Application of:

NORIYUKI SUZUKI, et al.

Application No.: 10/628,404

Filed: July 29, 2003

For: STORAGE UNIT, INFORMATION PROCESSING
APPARATUS, AND EJECT CONTROL METHOD
FOR STORAGE UNITMail Stop Amendment
THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified application.

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CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	(2) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(4) HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(5) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	12	MINUS	20	= 0	x \$25 \$50	\$.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	2	MINUS	3	= 0	x \$100 \$200	\$.00
Fee for Multiple Dependent claims \$180°/\$360						\$.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT---						


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- ☒ Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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